

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Notes on *Diaulota harteri* with new synonymy (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae).—Since the description of *Diaulota harteri* Moore and *D. megacephala* Moore (Trans. San Diego Soc. Natur. Hist., 12: 103–152, 1956) many more specimens have been collected. In all cases specimens of the former have been females and specimens of the latter males. I am convinced that the feeble lobe on the posterior margin of the sixth sternite of the holotype of *D. harteri* is a small variation of a female specimen. Consequently, I propose the following synonymy:

Diaulota harteri Moore, 1956: 123

Synonym *D. megacephala* Moore, 1956: 124 NEW SYNONYMY

I have seen a good series of this species collected from intertidal rock crevices at Gaviota Beach, Santa Barbara County, California, 23 March 1971, by Derham Giuliani. This is a northern extension of range for the species.—IAN MOORE, *Division of Biological Control, University of California, Riverside, 92502.*

***Xystridiogaster* Scheerpeltz, a synonym of *Paracraspedomerus* Moore (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae).**—The genus *Paracraspedomerus* was proposed by Ian Moore (1960, Pan-Pac. Entomol., 36: 99–101) for *Cafius speculifrons* Fauvel. Otto Scheerpeltz described the genus *Xystridiogaster* (1966, Naturhist. Mus. Wien Ann., 69: 393–418) based on the same type species. Since *Xystridiogaster* is isogenotypic with *Paracraspedomerus*, I propose the following synonymy:

Paracraspedomerus Moore, 1960

Xystridiogaster Scheerpeltz, 1965 NEW SYNONYMY

—IAN MOORE, *Division of Biological Control, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, 92502.*

Notes on dry-season survival in two species of Elmidae (Coleoptera).—During June 1969, I visited a small stream which empties into the Navarro River near Philo, Mendocino County, California. The only water which remained in the stream was in the form of small, widely scattered pools. I selected a spot approximately midway between two such pools about 200 feet apart and attempted to determine, by digging into the stream bed, whether any subsurface flow of water connected the pools. After digging down about 16 inches, I encountered water, then dug a few more inches to form a small basin. I watched the debris settle and was able to detect a slight flow evidently connecting the pools. Much to my surprise, I noticed several apparently dead Elmidae beetles drifting about at the bottom of the excavation. These beetles feign death when disturbed so I observed them carefully for a few minutes for signs of activity. After several minutes with no response, I transferred the beetles to a collecting pan containing about one inch of water. About ten

minutes later the beetles began to evidence signs of life and started crawling about the bottom of the pan. Careful further excavation resulted in a number of additional specimens and demonstrated clearly that these insects were actually surviving in the sandy gravel bed and had not merely fallen into the hole during my digging.

The beetles were subsequently identified as *Zaitzevia parvula* (Horn) and *Narpus angustus* Casey. No other adult or larval aquatic insects were found in the gravel beds, but the few remaining pools supported abundant insect life. This same creek was revisited in November, after the annual winter rains had begun, and these two species were found clinging to rocks in flowing water, the more usual niche for these insects.

Perhaps the small size of these elmidids permitted them to work their way into the gravel bed, either from above as the stream dried up, or outward from the pools along the flow paths. Of the two, I suspect the former to be the most likely. This experience would suggest that some species of Elmidae routinely aestivate, or at least survive seasonal drying, within the beds of intermittent streams. Such behavioral adaptation has obvious survival benefit in any area subject to such seasonal fluctuation in water levels.—L. NEIL BELL, 141 Mt. Shasta Court, Clayton, California 94517.

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